

Appl. No. : 09/764,680
Filed : January 18, 2001

REMARKS

In the May 18, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner objects to Claims 1-5 and 19 due to informalities; rejects Claims 7-12, 19, 20, 21, 24-26, and 32 on art-based grounds; requires amendment to the specification to add support for Claim 18; states that Claims 1-5 would be allowable if the objections over informalities are overcome, and states that Claims 13-18, 22, 23, and 27-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and allows Claims 30 and 31. Applicant requests reconsideration of the objections and rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

Discussion of Objections to Claims 1-5 and 19

The Examiner objected to informalities in Claim 1 and its dependents and Claim 19. Applicant has amended Claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objections to Claims 1-5. Applicant has canceled Claim 19 to speed issuance of the allowed and allowable claims, and thus respectfully submits that the objection to now-canceled Claim 19 is moot.

Discussion of Rejection of Claims 7-12, 19, 20, 21, 24-26, and 32 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejects Claims 7-12, 19, 20, 21, 24-26, and 32 on art-based grounds.

Without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejections, Applicant has canceled Claims 7-12, 19, 20, 21, 24-26, and 32 without prejudice herewith to speed issuance of the allowed and allowable claims. Accordingly, the rejections to Claims 7-12, 19, 20, 21, 24-26, and 32 are now moot. Applicant reserves the right to pursue any of the canceled claims in a continuation application.

Discussion of Amendments to the Specification

The Examiner requires amendment to the specification to add support for Claim 18. Applicant has amended the paragraph starting on line 1 of page 4 to add support for Claim 18. This amendment is supported by originally-filed Claim 18. Applicant submits that no new matter is introduced via this amendment. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that appropriate correction has been made and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection to the specification.

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Discussion of Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that Claims 1-5 would be allowable if the objections over informalities are overcome, states that Claims 13-18, 22, 23, and 27-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and allows Claims 30 and 31.

Applicant submits that appropriate corrections have been made to Claim 1, and respectfully requests allowance of amended Claim 1 and Claims 4-5.

Applicant has rewritten Claims 13-14, 16, 18, 22, 23, and 27-28 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In light of the allowability of the foregoing claims and numerous additional distinctions, Applicant has not rewritten dependent Claims 15, 17, and 29, which depend from rewritten Claims 14, 16, and 28, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant requests allowance of amended Claims 13-18, 22, 23, and 27-29.

Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objections or rejections to Claims 1-5, 13-18, 22-23, and 27-31. Applicant further requests the Examiner to allow Claims 1-5, 13-18, 22-23, and 27-31 and to pass the present application to the issue process.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

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Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated:

July 15, 2005

By:

Michael S. Okamoto

Michael S. Okamoto
Registration No. 47,831
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(310) 551-3450

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